

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GENERAL EXECUTIVE HELD IN
THE GRAND HOTEL, WELLINGTON ON WEDNESDAY 21 AND
THURSDAY 22 MARCH, 1962 COMMENCING AT
9.30 A.M. ON THE FORMER DATE.

PRESENT: Messrs J.R. Barber (Chairman), J.K. Bray, T.S. Wheeler, J.W. Fraser, D.F. Penrose, D.A. Barrow and the General Secretary (Mr R.A. Fraser.)

ATTENDING: At the request of the Executive Mr J. McFadzien, Editor of the "N.Z. Beekeeper" was in attendance.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER: Before the commencement of the meeting the Chairman on behalf of the Executive extended a warm welcome to Mr D.A. Barrow who was attending his first meeting following his nomination for the position to fill the casual vacancy created by the resignation of Mr J.D. Lorimer. Mr Barrow suitably replied.

OBITUARY: The Chairman referred to the untimely death of Mr E.A. Field of Foxton which had occurred since the Executive last met and he paid tribute to the long and meritorious service which Mr Field had rendered to the honey industry. It was RESOLVED unanimously "That this meeting expresses its deep regret at the recent death of Mr E.A. Field and places on record its appreciation of his outstanding service to the beekeeping industry especially during his lengthy term as Dominion President of the Association and later as Chairman of the New Zealand Honey Marketing Authority."

MINUTES: Minutes of the meeting of the Dominion Executive held in the Grand Hotel, Wellington on 15, 16, 17 and 18 October, 1961 copies of which had been circulated to all members were taken as read and confirmed on the motion of Mr J.K. Bray.

H.M.A. REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT: In view of the fact that business would be arising in connection with the operations of the Honey Marketing Authority the Chairman as the Executive's acknowledged representative on the Authority gave a comprehensive verbal report of business recently transacted by the Authority and of the Authority's over-all operations over the past six months. Numerous questions were asked by the Executive and an opportunity given to clarify members understanding of various aspects of the Authority's functioning.

"TUTU" AND POISONED HONEY: Following upon the Secretary's circular advices to members concerning the new outbreaks of poisoned honey production in newly discovered "tutu"-infested areas the Secretary read a letter from the Director of Horticulture reporting fully on the action taken by the Department to prevent such honey from reaching the market and its reasons therefor. Considerable concern was expressed by members at the spread of tutu and the attendant depredations of the "passion-vine-hopper" which combined in the production of poisoned honey. In view of the fact that the Executive was later to meet the Director of Horticulture personally and the Superintendent of Beekeeping further discussion was deferred meantime.

INSURANCE - PUBLIC LIABILITY AND GENERAL: Prior to the meeting at 11.45 a.m. with the Manager, New Zealand Insurance Company, Palmerston North, the Secretary gave a resume of negotiations which he had had with the Company in an effort to secure better policy conditions and premium rates for apiarists in providing for members requirements in a fully comprehensive public liability cover.

He advised that as a result of his representations and of the Company's pressure on the Underwriters Association, new rates had now been secured providing for overall premium reductions of approximately 40% for fully comprehensive public liability cover for apiarists. The question now for decision was whether the Association wished to implement a scheme to provide its members with such an insurance service on a voluntary basis with premiums paid and cover extended concurrently with the issue of the Association's membership receipts in a manner similar to that which operated under the old apiary insurance scheme.

At this juncture Mr C.E. Watters was received by the meeting and elaborated on the cover which would be extended and the manner in which the insurance could be extended to members through the Association's services. A draft brochure for issue to members of the Association giving general advice on all insurance matters was also presented and Mr Watters indicated that his Company would be prepared to produce such a brochure on behalf of the Association for distribution without cost to members, as an Association service.

After lengthy discussion during which Mr Watters answered a number of questions he was thanked for his attendance and withdrew from the meeting. The following resolutions were then passed:-

(1) "That the Executive accept the New Zealand Insurance Company's offer of preparation and production of a general brochure on insurance matters for the reference of beekeepers and that the Company be thanked for its offer in this regard."

(2) "That the outlined scheme for providing Association members with a comprehensive public liability insurance cover on a voluntary basis be adopted in terms of the Arrangement discussed between this Executive and the New Zealand Insurance Company."
(Fraser/Penrose)

H.M.A. ELECTION REGULATIONS: Consequent upon the discovery of various anomalies in the above regulations at the time of the last H.M.A. elections and subsequent representations made to the Minister thereon, further correspondence was received from the Minister indicating that after consultation with the Authority Government was prepared to effect the amendments to the Regulations which the Executive had sought. With regard to the establishment of voting rights for those producers who supplied packers however it was contended that no amendments to the regulations were required to enable the admission by the Returning Officer of a "Declaration of Supply" furnished by a packer. The Minister considered that sufficient provision was already made in the regulations for the Returning Officer to admit such evidence of supply in compiling his electoral roll. It was felt by members that in view of the fact that the Returning Officer had a discretionary power in the admission and acceptance or otherwise of evidence of supply, that this point should be clarified with him and accordingly it was RESOLVED (Bray/Barrow) "That the Returning Officer for the Honey Marketing Authority be asked to advise whether a "Statutory Declaration of Supply" furnished by a packer would be admitted as sufficient evidence of supply by a producer to such packer enabling the producer to be included in the roll in respect of that supply where no other evidence of such supply was furnished by the producer himself."

SUBMISSION TO ROYAL COMMISSION: The General Secretary drew attention to the submission which he had made to the Royal Commission on State Services at the instruction of the Executive at its last meeting. RESOLVED (Bray/Wheeler) "That the submission prepared and submitted by the General Secretary to the Royal Commission be approved and endorsed by this Executive."

POLLINATION SERVICE FEE: Attention was drawn to the development of negotiations between Nelson beekeepers and fruitgrowers in that area for the introduction of a "Pollination Service Fee" scheme, by which fruitgrowers would receive a comprehensive pollination service and beekeepers in turn receive an adequate payment for the service which they provided. Agreement was expressed with the manner in which the preliminary arrangements for such a scheme had been steered by the General Secretary and it was decided that the Department of Agriculture be asked to make the services of its apiculturist for the South Island (Mr I.W. Forster) available to assist the negotiations between the Nelson Branch of the Association and the Nelson Fruit Advisory Committee.

MATTERS ARISING FROM 1961 CONFERENCE: Various representations had been made on the following matters:-

- (1) Taxation Exemptions.
- (2) Exchange on Inland Cheques.
- (3) Bank Service Fee on Overdraft Accounts.
- (4) Heavy Traffic Licensing Dates.
- (5) Honey Spray in Orchards.

The replies to these representations were received and considered. It was decided that no further action be taken.

PROGRAMME EXTENSION: Following investigation which had been carried out, the meeting received a written report from Mr J. McFadzien on "International Participation"; from Mr T.S. Wheeler on "Bursaries for Overseas Study" and a verbal report (To be confirmed subsequently in writing) from Mr J.W. Fraser on "Courses in Practical Beekeeping."

In the case of Mr McFadzien's report it was RESOLVED (Barber/Wheeler) "That the report be adopted and that the Editor be thanked for his time and effort involved in this project and the studied appraisal which he furnished."

In the case of the bursary scheme report furnished by Mr T.S. Wheeler it was RESOLVED (Fraser/Bray) "That the Executive approves the report of the investigating sub-committee established by Mr Wheeler and endorses its recommendation that a questionnaire along the lines submitted be sent to all Association members to obtain further views on the draft scheme and further, that enquiries be made overseas of the reception likely to be accorded such a scheme by hosting countries."

With regard to the proposal of courses in practical beekeeping it was RESOLVED (Penrose/Bray) "That Mr J.W. Fraser's verbal report be received subject to written confirmation and that the proposals contained therein be submitted to branches for comment. Further that the Director of Horticulture be approached for his co-operation in any scheme resulting therefrom."

FINANCIAL REPORT: The Secretary presented a financial report setting out bank balances at date, budgetary forecast of receipts and expenditure for the remainder of the year and schedule of accounts requiring to be passed for payment with vouchers attached for inspection. RESOLVED (Bray/Penrose) "That the financial report be adopted and that all accounts enumerated therein be passed for payment."

DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS FUNDS: The question of the method and avenue of disposal of the funds which had accumulated to the Association through the operation of the now defunct "Apiary Insurance Scheme" were considered by the Executive in the light of the legal opinion sought and obtained from Mr J.B. Cullinane L.L.M. The funds had accumulated in a separate account in the Association's books for the specific purpose of meeting members franchise under the previously operated insurance scheme which had now been replaced by an improved scheme in which the franchise requirements no longer applied. Despite considerable discussion there was no evidence of agreement between Executive members at the time the meeting recessed for dinner.

After the dinner adjournment the meeting continued to discuss this and other matters in the absence of the General Secretary who had other business commitments elsewhere.

On his return he was acquainted with the following resolution of the Executive:- RESOLVED (Fraser/Bray) "That the sum accumulated in the insurance support fund (known as the Trust Fund in the Association's accounts) be transferred as at 31 May 1962 to the credit of the Association's General Account."

SECRETARIAL POSITION AND REMUNERATION OF OFFICERS: On his return to the meeting the Secretary was also acquainted with the following resolution of the Executive:- "That the General Secretary be asked to continue for another 12 months at a salary of £800." In replying, the Secretary expressed his appreciation of the position in which the Executive was placed. He acknowledged the difficult financial position in which the Association found itself but at the same time felt bound to re-iterate his own financial position and his opinion (based on time study of the work involved) that the position would be under-remunerated at less than £1000 per annum. He re-iterated also the absorbing interest which the Association's work gave him and his personal desire to remain the Association's General Secretary as long as it was financially practical for him (provided always, of course, that he continued to enjoy the confidence of the Executive in his work.) He indicated therefore that he would be prepared to continue for a further 12 months at the salary offered in the hope that the Association meantime may be so able to strengthen its financial position as to enable him to continue thereafter at the higher salary which the position demanded.

In subsequent discussion it was ascertained ^{By THE SE} that no adjustment had been made to the Editor's honorarium despite the fact that this also was long overdue for review. By mutual agreement the foregoing resolution was amended as follows:- "That the salary of the General Secretary be increased by £250 and the honorarium of the Editor be increased by £50 with effect from 1 June 1962 until the 31 May 1963 and that the matter of the remuneration of these officers be reviewed again at this latter date."

JOURNAL PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION: The Editor submitted a written report covering fluctuations in sizes of issues, variations in advertising revenue and printing costs, his Editorial policy and the reasons therefor. After discussion of the various points referred to it was RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY "That the Editor be thanked for his report and that this Executive expresses its continued faith in the Editor and satisfaction with the manner in which

the Journal is produced."

With regard to the H.M.A. booklet "The Story of Bees and Honey" the Editor advised that with the Authority's approval, the booklet could be sent to beekeepers as a supplement to the May Journal at a small additional cost by the printers. It was decided that this should be done.

NEW BUSINESS SINCE LAST MEETING: The following matters received consideration and attention as indicated:-

(a) Departmental Staff Changes and Promotions: Satisfaction was expressed at the advice received from the Director of Horticulture in connection with various staff re-arrangements and promotions. It was decided that the Secretary should write to Mr I.W. Forster who had been promoted to the position of apiculturist in the South Island extending the Executive's congratulations and good wishes.

(b) Auckland Branch Special Meeting: Further to previous circular advices, the Secretary elaborated briefly on the reasons for the above meeting in December 1961 and for the attendance of himself and the President. He sought endorsement of their action and this was indicated without reservation.

(c) Honey Promotion: The Secretary's attempt to achieve wide publicity for the value of honey by the presentation of a gift consignment of honey to the family of P.G. Snell was discussed, the Secretary seeking endorsement for his action in this regard. Although the scheme had not met with the degree of success first anticipated the Secretary was congratulated for his initiative and his actions were endorsed.

(d) Food Value of Honey: The uncomplimentary reports issued by the Health Department on the food value of honey were referred to and the counter measures taken by the General Secretary and the Manager of the N.Z. Honey Marketing Authority discussed. No further action was considered warranted meantime.

(e) Deputy Representative on Agricultural Chemicals Board: It was decided to convey the Executive's sympathy to Mr T.E. Pearson in his present illness and to advise that in the event of him considering a deputy necessary to sit in his stead on the Agricultural Chemicals Board, the Executive's Mr J.K. Bray would be available to assist in this direction and he should contact him direct.

(f) Liquid Honey Transportation: The action taken in regard to the Railway Department's embargo on road transportation of liquid honey was reviewed and satisfaction expressed with the outcome of representations made to the Railways Department.

(g) West Coast Branch Resolutions: Three resolutions relative to the operations of the Honey Marketing Authority forwarded to the Executive by the West Coast Branch (copies of which had previously been referred to members of the Executive) were considered. The Chairman advised that the Manager and Chairman of the Honey Marketing Authority were planning to visit the West Coast Branch this week to acquaint them fully with the reasons for the Authority's attitude on the points referred to and it was decided therefore that the Branch be advised that the Executive had no further comment to make.

(h) Conference Arrangements 1962: The venue of Tauranga for the 1962 Conference of the Association was confirmed and the question of detailed arrangements was left in the hands of the Bay of Plenty Branch in consultation with the General Secretary.

PRICE CONTROL AND PRICES: The possibility of developments with regard to Government policy on decontrol of honey prices was raised and in the absence of any further communication from the Price Tribunal or Government the Secretary was deputed to have a discussion with the Secretary of the Price Control Division, Mr J.H. Tuohy, on the matter. When he returned the Secretary reported as follows:-

(1) That the possibility of a decontrol of honey prices within the near future was extremely remote and that if the industry brought substantial pressure to bear on Government

it was unlikely that Price Control would ever be removed from honey sales if such was the industry's wish.

(2) That the Prices Division was at present investigating an application lodged by South Island packers for an increase in the controlled price of honey at the point of sale from packer to wholesaler or retailer; that the Division was in sympathy with the application and was doing everything within its power to substantiate a case for the Price Tribunal to grant an increase in such prices of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. Mr Tuohy had indicated that if the Association added its support for a general increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. in the prices charged by packers for retail containers that it might substantially assist his Division in advancing the case with the Price Tribunal. RESOLVED (Bray/Penrose) "That the Executive on behalf of the Association apply for an increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. in the prices for packed honey payable to a packer on the basis of representations already made by individual packers in the Canterbury area and supported by the H.M.A."

(3) With regard to the inclusion of the Seal Levy in the Price Order the Secretary advised that as far as the Price Tribunal was concerned the matter was obscure. Mr Tuohy had shown the Secretary the confidential records and reports compiled by the Prices Division for the reference of the Price Tribunal when the last major revision of the Price Order was carried out. This clearly showed that irrespective of the inclusion of the penny seal as a fixed item of cost in the cost structure, the penny levy was in fact included under one heading or another in the total costs allowed for by the Tribunal in promulgating the Price Order. With regard to future increases in the levy the position was by no means as clear. In other words it could not be guaranteed that future increases in the levy would automatically be guaranteed inclusion in a future Price Order as the recognition of such cost factor would again be a matter for determination by the Price Tribunal. The methods of the Prices Division in establishing cost-structure would appear to have some bearing on this however.

The Secretary advised that he had also discussed the question of recognition of the levy as a cost in relation to the production of revenue for financing the work of the Association and in this regard had gained some most useful intelligence. Mr Tuohy had advised that a levy struck solely for the support of an industry organisation would be recognised by the Division and the Price Tribunal as a fixed and determined cost item which would be given full recognition in any adjustment to future Price Orders. Precedent existed in this regard through the "Wheat Levy", which provided revenue for the Master Bakers' Association and was collected by flour-millers on their behalf under special legislation.

The Secretary gave it as his opinion that herein lay the solution to the Association's long-term financial problems. If the Association resolved to increase the existing levy with a proviso that the additional revenue produced thereby was to be devoted to the Association's use solely as an industry body the full amount of such increase would be allowed by the Price Tribunal as a cost-of-production in the adjustment of the Price Order. After considerable discussion it was RESOLVED (Barber/Barrow) "That the General Secretary seek written confirmation of Mr Tuohy's advices concerning the automatic inclusion of such special levy in costs allowable in a new Price Order and that following such written confirmation (and dependent solely upon it) the Executive sponsor the following remit to the forthcoming Dominion Conference:- "That this Conference resolves that the Seals Levy be increased by $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. to $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. the additional farthing to be for the specific purpose of providing the Association with finance for future functioning and to be collected and held in trust by the Authority for such specific purpose at call AND that the H.M.A. Regulations be amended to delete the provision relating to the present sum of £1300 per annum payable by the Authority to the Association."

MEETING WITH DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS: During the period that the Secretary was absent for discussions with the Price Control Division the Executive received Messrs A.M.W. Greig, Director of Horticulture, Mr E. Smaellie, Superintendent of Beekeeping and Mr T. Palmer-Jones, Principal Scientific Officer, Department of Agriculture, Wallaceville. During this meeting the following matters were dealt with:-

Diploma in Apiculture: Mr Greig presented drafts of the Diploma and Certificate and sought approval from the Executive of their form. This was indicated by the Executive. He also submitted a proposed application form for use in the initial awarding of honorary diplomas within the provisions of the Royal N.Z. Institute of Horticulture Act. This form included provision for certification of ability etc. by either a branch of the N.B.A. or an apiary instructor as sponsor of the applicant. The Executive expressed its agreement with this form also. It was additionally agreed that the presentation of diplomas should be undertaken at official functions of the Association to establish an initial prestige value for the Diploma.

"Hormophos": Mr Greig advised that "hormophos" as a possible factor in bee mortality was at present being studied by Mr Palmer-Jones for the Agricultural Chemicals Board.

Bursary Scheme: Messrs Smaellie & Greig indicated their willingness to sit on any selection panel which might be set up if the scheme is proceeded with. They expressed themselves in favour of the Bursary Scheme in general.

Seminars of Practical Beekeeping: Departmental support was pledged by Mr Greig to this scheme in principle. The Department would be pleased to have a look at any final draft scheme and to help where possible if a workable plan for such Seminars can be developed.

"Bacillus Larvae" Report of Joint Meeting: Mr Greig outlined revisions which he had made to the original draft report of the meeting after the receipt of comments which he had invited on the draft from those who had attended the meeting. Agreement was expressed by the Executive with the report as amended. Mr Greig advised that the report as amended would now be placed before the Minister and that after this had taken place the way would be open for the Executive to make representations to the Minister for the implementation of all or any of the recommendations embodied in the report.

Submission to Royal Commission: The Director commended the Association for the general tenor of its submissions.

Pollination Service Fee (Nelson area): Mr Greig advised that the Department would be prepared and happy to make the services of Mr I.W. Forster, Apiculturist for the South Island available at the first meeting between beekeepers and the Nelson Fruit Advisory Committee with regard to the Association's proposals for the introduction of a pollination service scheme in the Nelson Fruitgrowing area. Mr Forster would also be made available on any subsequent occasions which might be necessary in the implementation of any scheme agreed upon between the beekeepers and fruitgrowers of the area.

Nectar Secretion in Clover (Waikato): The Director advised that no reports were as yet to hand from the investigations being carried out by the Department into the apparent failure of clover to secrete nectar in the Waikato area. (Thus having a bearing both on honey production and the re-generation of pasture in the area.) He would advise as soon as reports came to hand.

Spring Bee Losses (Auckland area): The problem of considerable losses of bees from unidentified causes in the spring months, apparent in the Auckland area, was referred to and following the General Secretary's request that the Department undertake a full scale scientific investigation in the spring months of 1962 Mr Greig advised that this work was to be carried out by the Department as requested.

"Tutu" and Toxic Honey: The new outbreaks in the North-of-Auckland area were discussed at length by the Executive and the Departmental Officers,. As a result of this discussion general agreement was arrived at on the following points:-

- (1) A few samples proved to be toxic, together with local evidence of infestation by the passion-vine-hopper, provided justification for destruction of all honey in that particular area.
- (2) The Minister should be approached for ex-gratia payments to producers concerned.
- (3) Such areas should be defined as "closed areas" for beekeeping.
- (4) All possible steps should be taken to avoid publicity. A statement should be prepared to be held by both the Department and the Association for immediate release if necessary to counter any harmful publicity.
- (5) The D.S.I.R. should be asked to introduce biological control on the passion-vine-hopper.

After Messrs Greig, Smaellie and Palmer-Jones had withdrawn from the meeting it was RESOLVED (Fraser/Bray) "That this Executive commends the Department's attitude on toxic honey and supports the action being taken to date."

GENERAL: Amongst a number of general matters briefly discussed were (1) the Quarterly survey of the A.N.Z. Bank Ltd. for January 1962 which gave a worthwhile broad review of the position of honey production in N.Z. and (2) The question of possible extension of membership in the Auckland Branch area by affiliation with the Auckland Bee Club or alternatively the attraction of Auckland Bee Club members back within the Association. In regard to this latter matter the Secretary was given full authority to enter into negotiations with the Auckland Bee Club and to make the most satisfactory arrangements possible for such a coalition.

The meeting finally terminated at 4.15 p.m. on Thursday 22 March 1962.

J. R. Barker

CONFIRMED

DATE

24th July 1962.

CHAIRMAN

J. R. Barker

TAURANGA HOTEL, TAURANGA ON TUESDAY 24 JULY 1962 COMMENCING AT 9.30 A.M.

PRESENT: Messrs J.R. Barber (Chairman), D.A. Barrow, J.K. Bray, J.W. Fraser, T.S. Wheeler, D.F. Penrose, and the General Secretary (Mr R.A. Fraser).

APOLOGY: An apology for unavoidable absence occasioned by sickness was tendered on behalf of Mr J. McFadzien Editor "N.Z. Beekeeper" by the General Secretary. Members expressed their sincere regret at the Editor's indisposition and it was RESOLVED "That a telegram of good wishes be sent to him wishing a speedy recovery to full health."

MINUTES: Minutes of the meeting held in Wellington on 21 and 22 March 1962, copies of which had been circulated to all members were taken as read and confirmed on the motion of Messrs J.W. Fraser and J.K. Bray after members were satisfied that the error in the dates applicable to the Secretary's and the Editor's increase in honorarium which appeared in the circulated copies was correctly recorded on page 321A of the master record.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS: The Secretary tabled the audited Annual Accounts of the Association for the year ended 31 May 1962, copies of which were supplied to members. It was noted that the printing and distribution cost of the Journal had increased substantially during the year and that the cost of Executive meetings was higher than in the previous year. It was also remarked that Insurance Support Fund as at 31 May, that the General Account would have shown a sizable deficit on the year's working, illustrating the complete inadequacy of Association's income to meet the usual expenses of normal functioning in any year. RESOLVED (Bray/Barrow) "That the Annual Accounts of the Association be received and adopted."

WITHOUT THE TRANSFER
OF THE BALANCE AT
CREDIT IN THE

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT: A schedule of accounts covering the period 22 March to 31 May 1962 totalling £712. 0. 9. was tabled for confirmation with vouchers attached for inspection as was a further schedule of accounts for the period 1 June 1962 to 20 July 1962 totalling £168. 2. 9. RESOLVED: (Fraser/Wheeler) "That the schedules (2) of payments tabled be passed for payment and that the Secretary's action in effecting prior payment be endorsed."

ANNUAL REPORT: The President read his draft annual report to be presented to Conference and comment was made as follows:-

Toxic Honey: The wisdom of including reference to the toxic honey problem in the report was questioned, some members feeling that this was providing the press with a further and unnecessary opportunity of publicising this unfortunate occurrence. The Chairman maintained however, that as the toxic honey remits were likely to be considered by Conference "in committee" it was desirable that the press be supplied with a factual summary of the whole position and of the Association's attitude on the matter if allegations of secrecy and guilt were to be avoided. The Association had nothing to hide in the matter while it was correctly reported, and members finally agreed that the report be handed to the press in toto but with the request that if mention was to be made of the toxic honey position that the mention in the report be printed in its entirety or not at all.

Marketing: Mr Bray questioned the necessity for recording in the report the propositions which he and Mr Penrose had made for the regulation of the Authority's payout. The proposition only was referred to in the report and not the names of its sponsors. A lengthy discussion followed during which it was obvious that the consensus of opinion supported the making of statements of policy in the annual report in

connection with marketing and after minor modification of the passage referred to by Mr Bray it was RESOLVED: (Fraser/Wheeler) "That the Annual Report be approved for presentation to Conference."

TOXIC HONEY:

The meeting reviewed recent developments in the toxic honey problem and the Chairman and Secretary elaborated verbally on the meetings which had been held in Wellington and in Whangarei in an endeavour to obtain realistic financial assistance for affected producers and also to find a way out of the impasse with regard to future honey production in the Northland area. During the course of this discussion the meeting received Mr A.M.W. Greig Director of Horticulture, Mr T. Palmer-Jones, Principal Scientific Officer in Apiculture Wallaceville, Mr E. Smaellie Superintendent of Beekeeping and the local Apiary Instructor. Mr Greig was able to advise confidentially that he had just received news from the Minister to the effect that Government would be making an ex gratia payment of seventy-five pounds per ton for all seized honey which was to be destroyed. The full text of the Minister's advice would be conveyed to Conference on the following day by Mr Walshe, Member of Parliament for the district who would be deputising for the Minister in the Opening of Conference. Mr Greig also elaborated on the Department's policy of leaving the area to future production but mentioned that some safe-guards would have to be imposed to ensure that toxic honey was not in future produced which could be dangerous to public health. These proposals were also discussed at some length, the point being made by the Executive once more that on the basis of evidence of danger to public health so far, the success of the Department's attempt to keep the area open to future production would rest in very material degree on the realistic approach of those apiary officers who would be undertaking field assessments of the possible danger.

Basis for Settlement of Honey still on Hives: One matter still required to be finalised in connection with the making of ex gratia payments to affected producers," said Mr Greig. This was the evaluation of the volume of honey on hives which were to be affected by the destruction order. He requested the Executive to appoint a sub-committee to negotiate with himself and the Superintendent of Beekeeping to evolve a satisfactory formula in this regard. The Secretary expressed the view that the Northern producers should be represented at these negotiations and was finally decided that Messrs Barber, Barrow, Wheeler, Haines, Sharp, and the General Secretary be appointed a sub-committee for the purpose outlined.

Before Mr Greig and his party withdrew, Mr J.W. Fraser referred to the sterling work which Mr Greig had done on behalf of the beekeepers in the negotiations with Government for financial assistance and the overcoming of the toxic honey problem in Northland. A motion of thanks and an expression of confidence in Mr Greig which he proposed was carried by the Executive with acclamation. Mr Greig expressed his pleasure at the Executive's appreciation of his efforts in this regard.

POLLINATION SERVICES: (Nelson)

The Secretary outlined steps which had been taken to bring Nelson fruitgrowers and beekeepers together in the provision of an adequate pollination service for fruitgrowing purposes with a more commensurate return to the beekeeper for the services provided. The department had made Messrs Palmer-Jones and Forster available to help in the negotiations between the beekeepers and fruitgrowers. Some progress had been made but it did not now look likely that the full scheme envisaged originally would come into being. The matter was being proceeded with at district level.

PRICE INCREASE:

The recently granted increase of a ½d. per lb. for South Island honey marketed in the North Island was discussed

briefly. The question of applying for an overall increase following a review of the cost of production was also discussed in general terms without finality being reached.

BEE MORTALITY: (Auckland) The Secretary tabled correspondence which he had had with the Department in this regard and it was noted that the department planned a full investigation into the causes of mysterious bee losses during the coming spring months.

HONEY MARKETING AUTHORITY ELECTIONS: Correspondence which had passed between the General Secretary and the Returning Officer for the Honey Marketing Authority Elections was reviewed and satisfaction was expressed that amendment was to be made in the regulations to permit packers to furnish a declaration of supply on behalf of producers for the purpose of establishing voting qualifications. It was also noted that the regulations were to be redrafted to cover the averaging of Supply or Seals Purchases over a two year period for the calculating of voting qualifications in accordance with the originally intended procedure.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE: E.R. LEGGETT. The Secretary advised on the representations which he had made on behalf of Mr Leggett following the Executive's last meeting. The only progress achieved to date was a promise from the Minister to investigate Leggett's position with a view to recommending guaranteed overdraft accommodation for Leggett to the Minister of Finance.

BACILLUS LARVAE DISEASE: Following receipt of a report of the joint meeting between the Department and the Executive which summarised the conclusions arrived at by the meeting for dealing with this problem, the Secretary advised that it now rested with the Executive to make a request to the Minister for the implementation of some course of action in line with the conclusions of the report. It was decided that the Secretary advise the Minister that the Executive endorsed the report fully and request him to implement the recommendations of the joint meeting as soon as possible.

PROJECT INVESTIGATION: The Further results of investigation into the two extension projects "Courses in Practical Beekeeping," and "Overseas Study Tours" were given by Messrs T.S. Wheeler and J.W. Fraser, the investigation convenors. In the course of the investigation questionnaires had been circulated to all beekeepers by post and although a full evaluation of the replies received had not yet been possible, those which had come to hand (approximately 100 in each case) evidenced a strong measure of support for both proposals. It was decided that the result of both surveys be referred to the incoming Executive with a strong recommendation that they be proceeded with. On the motion of Messrs Bray and Penrose, it was RESOLVED: "That Messrs Fraser and Wheeler be thanked and commended for their efforts in the investigation of the respective projects."

EDITORIAL POSITION: The Secretary reported that the Editor was at present ill and would not be available at Conference. The Editor had also advised him that in view of his health and of his changed position that he considered himself unable to continue in the position of Editor for an indefinite period. The Editor had recommended that the Executive give consideration to his replacement with a suitable successor as soon as possible although he would be prepared to continue for up to 12 months if necessary. Regret was expressed at the Editor's advice although there was appreciation of his position. With regard to his replacement as Editor of the Journal there was considerable discussion on the question of suitably qualified persons within the Association but no finality was reached. The matter was referred for consideration to the incoming Executive.

CIRCULAR SERVICE TO BRANCHES: The Secretary read a letter from the South Canterbury Branch in connection with the infrequency of circulars from Head Office. The reply which had been sent to the branch in which the Secretary outlined the position as he understood it was read for the information of members and the Secretary sought direction as to whether the original policy should be in any way be varied in the future. In the course of discussion the Secretary's reply was endorsed and the outlined policy reaffirmed.

NATIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE PROPOSAL: Correspondence was considered from the South Canterbury Branch proposing the setting-up of a National Library Service of all beekeeping literature which would be available to any member of the Association on payment of a hire fee. The value of the proposal was acknowledged by members and after some discussion as to the possible method of organising such a service it was RESOLVED: (Fraser/Barrow) "That the proposition be referred to the incoming Executive for consideration and action."

MISCELLANEOUS: During the Secretary's absence with Messrs T.S. Wheeler and D.A. Barrow for a recorded interview with the N.Z.B.C. station 1YD the following matters were reviewed:- Public Liability Insurance; Appointment of Deputy Representative on Agricultural Chemicals Board; Honey Advertising; and Conference Arrangements. On their return business was transacted as follows:-

DIPLOMA IN APICULTURE: Mention was made of the difficulty being experienced by some branches in the selection of senior beekeepers for nomination for the honorary Diploma in Apiculture. Members discussed the difficulties which had become apparent in their respective branches and it was at length RESOLVED: (Fraser/Wheeler) "That the incoming Executive make an immediate approach to the Director of Horticulture with a view to establishing some uniformity in the standard of qualifications which should be taken as a guide by branches in proposing its elder beekeepers for the honorary receipt of the diploma."

SHORTAGE OF PARAFFIN WAX:- Mr J.W. Fraser referred to the difficulty being experienced by some producers in obtaining supplies of wax from the regular sources in the South Island in view of exceptional demands placed upon the normal supply by mutton-birders. It was decided that the secretary should write to the Minister of Customs requesting an increase in imports so that regular users of wax will not be deprived of supplies because of the extra demand from other industries.

EXECUTIVE REMIT: The validity of the postal ballot undertaken by the General Secretary to determine whether the Executive remit proposing a farthing increase in a Seals Levy for Association purposes should be included in the Conference order paper, was questioned by Messrs Penrose and Bray. All other members were in agreement with the action which had been taken, however, and it was pointed out that the inclusion of the remit in the order paper did not commit any Executive member to its support on the floor of Conference. Recalling the misinterpretation of the Executives (and in particular the Presidents) own position when a similar proposition had been placed before Conference by the Executive at the Auckland Conference in 1960 however, Mr J.W. Fraser considered that the Executive should give some direction to the President as to the manner in which the remit was to be brought forward. After discussion it was RESOLVED: (Fraser/Barrow) "That the President move the Executive resolution from the chair of Conference proforma."

HONEY MARKETING AUTHORITY REPORT: ON the evening of Tuesday 24 July the Executive received Mr G.E. Gumbrell, Chairman of the Honey Marketing Authority and Mr C.T. Gosse, Manager of the Authority. In the course of the evening Mr Gumbrell gave a detailed resume of his recent overseas tour undertaken on behalf of the Authority

and answered a number of questions on general marketing matters.

The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to Mr Gumbrell at 11 p.m.

CONFIRMED

DATE. *19th March, 1963.* CHAIRMAN. *J. P. Barker.*

REPORT AND MINUTES OF AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE HELD
IN THE GRAND HOTEL, WELLINGTON ON WEDNESDAY 31 OCTOBER 1962
COMMENCING AT 9.15 A.M.

NOTE: The attendance of Messrs Barber, Wheeler, Bray and the General Secretary had previously been arranged for some time for the purpose of making submissions to the Minister of Agriculture on general industry problems. On 30 October the President requested the urgent attendance of remaining members of the Executive as a matter of emergency but at this stage (21 hours before the meeting time) efforts to communicate with Mr D. Barrow of Tauranga proved unsuccessful.

PRESENT: Messrs J.R. Barber (Chairman) T.S. Wheeler, J.K. Bray, H. Cloake, D.L. Ward and the General Secretary (Mr R.A. Fraser).

SUBMISSION TO MINISTER: At the commencement of the meeting the Chairman requested the General Secretary to read the submission which he had drafted for presentation to the Minister that afternoon. The submission covered in broad terms the industry's concern over practically all features of production and the services of the Department of Agriculture in relation thereto and sought the Minister's consent in principle to establishing closer links between producers and the Department with a view to overcoming various problems. After a full discussion it was RESOLVED (Wheeler/Ward) "That the submission prepared by the General Secretary for presentation to the Minister of Agriculture be endorsed 'en toto'."

EMERGENCY ATTENDANCE OF ALL MEMBERS: The Chairman explained to members his reason for calling for a full attendance at such short notice. The proposal that a submission be made to the Minister along the broad lines mentioned had been made by the General Secretary in his circular to the Executive dated 5 October 1962. The comments of members had been sought on this proposal and the questionnaire slips which had been returned by members indicated 100% endorsement for the proposal. It had further been indicated in the Secretary's circular that the deputation to the Minister would comprise the President, Vice-President and General Secretary. This had later been amended to include Mr Bray as a South Island member and one who had had lengthy and continuous service on the Executive and was well acquainted with the general points to be covered. Subsequent intelligence reaching the General Secretary had indicated that a re-organisation within the Horticulture Division of the Department had already been commenced and the seeking of an appointment with the Minister together with the preparation and presentation of the submission had become a matter of urgency if the industry's viewpoint was to be taken into account before the re-organisation was completed. This advice had also been conveyed to members of the Executive in the Secretary's circular dated 25 October 1962. Mr Cloake had raised strong objection to any written submission being made to the Minister without its prior reference to the full Executive and in this contention had been supported by Mr Bray. Mr Cloake had subsequently phoned both the President and the General Secretary expressing further objection on the grounds that a submission which had not been referred to and endorsed by the Executive before presentation to the Minister amounted to unconstitutional procedure. Despite the assurances of the General Secretary that the submission covered only broad principles upon which the Executive had constantly agreed Mr Cloake had threatened either:-

- (a) A Court injunction restraining the deputation from proceeding or
- (b) A telegram to the Minister in advance of his receipt of the deputation advising that the submission had not been referred to the Executive and accordingly did not have its full support.

In the face of this threatened action the President had had no alternative but to summon the full Executive to meet in Wellington as a matter of urgency before the deputation met the Minister.

Commenting upon the position the Chairman expressed his strong concern that this position should have ever arisen. The decision to confine the deputation to the senior members of the Executive had been made for two reasons only:-

- (1) The haste with which the arrangement had had to be made with the Minister and the submissions prepared, and
- (2) The extremely serious financial position of the Association which prohibited the expenditure involved in a full Executive meeting except in a case of emergency or highly urgent business. He maintained that in any organisation there had to be an essential element of trust and confidence in senior officers as there would always be cases of emergency where prompt action had to be taken by either the President or the General Secretary or both without opportunity to fully consult or confer with the full Executive. The Secretary also expressed his concern at the action contemplated by Mr Cloake. The sending of a telegram to the Minister in advance of his receipt of a deputation would have done untold damage to the prestige of the Association and its Executive. It would have undone in a matter of moments the struggles and efforts of previous Executives and officers who had dedicated themselves over a period of many years to increasing the prestige and standing of the Association in all official quarters. He added that he would personally far prefer the full Executive able to meet and assume the responsibility for decisions on every occasion that they were required. This would make his job much less onerous.

Mr Cloake in reply expressed his appreciation of the attitudes of the President and the Secretary but felt bound to maintain his fundamental point of principle which was involved in the present case. Every member of the Executive had been elected to his post and had a responsibility to the general membership of the Association. He could not swerve from his conviction that the action which had been initially proposed was constitutionally and morally wrong and being of strong conviction was compelled to uphold the attitude which he had previously expressed and the devices which he had used to ensure that the submission did not go forward without prior reference to, and endorsement by, the full Executive.

A general discussion ensued on the matter in which a general appreciation was expressed of all points raised by the President, Secretary and Mr Cloake. Consideration of the matter concluded on this note of a general appreciation for each others viewpoints without proposal or consideration of a formal motion of censure.

H.M.A. REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT: The Chairman presented a written report on the meeting of the Honey Marketing Authority held in Auckland on 16 and 17 October 1962, and discussion ensued on the various matters referred to therein. The Chairman drew attention to the reduced returns which producers of darker grade honies would this year receive in view of lower overseas realisations and considered that the position of many of these producers could be serious as a result of the substantially lower returns. He felt that after suppliers to the Authority had received advice of the payout and branches of the Association had had an opportunity of considering the matter that the Executive may well be obliged to consider a special meeting to discuss the plight of these producers and to make representations to Government for their assistance.

ASSOCIATION FINANCES: Mr Cloake drew attention to the serious state of the Association's finances and considered that immediate attention should be given to ways and means of improving the position. Various proposals were advanced and discussed and

the history of some previous proposals which had received Conference endorsement was traced. It was considered that as Government was unwilling to sanction any further grant from the seals levy fund and that the industry had consistently opposed any suggestion of increase in the seals levy that a full re-appraisal should be made of the Apiary Registration Fee Scheme which had previously been considered and passed over. The reasons behind the dropping of the scheme were again considered and discussed fully. Amongst other considerations it was recalled that the effectiveness of the scheme as a revenue producer had depended largely on the inclusion of a large number of hobbyist hives throughout the country. The Minister at that time had indicated however, that he would not be prepared to consider legislation introducing a hive levy without substantial evidence of overwhelming support from those who would be affected by the payment of the levy. It was considered by Mr Ward that if an effort were made the support of the hobbyist beekeepers could be obtained especially as the levy would be an essentially low one. He felt that branches could canvass all registered beekeepers in their areas and obtain a substantial majority of support for the scheme. After considerable discussion it was RESOLVED (Wheeler/Cloake) "That Mr Ward be authorised to investigate in his own apiary Registration District the degree of support which all registered beekeepers would accord the imposition of a hive tax to provide the Association with necessary finance to ensure its continuing service in the interests of all beekeepers." This would be a pilot effort and dependent upon results achieved in his area consideration could be given to the feasibility of extending the survey over the whole country. It was suggested that a percentage of the survey should be conducted by postal questionnaire and a small percentage by personal contact. In this way the effectiveness of both could be gauged in relation to time and money expended in carrying out the survey.

At this juncture the meeting adjourned for luncheon and the meeting with the Minister; all members present being included in the deputation.

Following upon the Minister's broad approval for a joint meeting to be held between Departmental and Association representatives, a discussion was held with Mr A.M.W. Greig acting on behalf of the Director-General who had been committed at short notice to another important meeting. At this meeting with Mr Greig some of the more detailed matters of concern to producers in relation to departmental services and functioning were discussed. Following these discussions it was RESOLVED unanimously (Wheeler/Bray) "That the General Secretary be authorised to prepare and present a specially detailed submission to the Director-General of Agriculture for his confidential information. Such submission to contain in detail various matters of concern to the Association in the present and possible future functioning of the Department's Apiary Section which were deemed to prejudice the interests of the industry, thus establishing the legitimacy of the Association's request for a full, frank and comprehensive meeting between Association and Departmental representatives as authorised by the Minister in principle. Further that the General Secretary prepare and present such confidential submission without referring its detailed contents to the Executive for its prior consideration and endorsement."

It was further DECIDED that all branches of the Association be advised of the fact that the Executive was to be forced into considerable expense in holding a joint meeting with the Department which was of extreme importance to the industry and that an appeal be made to all branches for a donation towards the consolidated funds of the Association to assist in meeting the expenses of such meeting.

HONORARY DIPLOMAS IN APICULTURE: During the discussions with Mr Greig and in answer to a previous request from the Executive he tabled for consideration a suggested set of standards which the Executive might refer to branches as a guide in nominating its elder and more respected beekeepers of high qualification and repute for the honorary Diploma in Apiculture. With minor modification the recommendations made by Mr Greig in this regard were accepted 'in toto' and he was thanked for his assistance in this regard.

CONFIRMED

DATE ... 19th March 1963 ... CHAIRMAN ...

J. L. Barber